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I. Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows with the following version of the claims in accordance with revised 37 CFR § 1.121.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for managing devices within a distributed data processing system, the method comprising:

receiving a request for an action at a target device within the distributed data processing system, wherein the request for an action at the target device uniquely identifies the target device using a system address for the target device, wherein completion of the action depends upon a network address of the target device within the distributed data processing system; ~~and~~

in response to a determination that a second device within the distributed data processing system has a network address that duplicates the network address of the target device, reporting the duplicate network address to a user along with other system address information for the target device and the second device;

requiring the user to enter a virtual private network identifier (VPN ID) to be associated with the target device; and
in response to a determination that a second device within the distributed data processing system has a network address that duplicates the network address of the target device, generating a modified system address for the target device based on the entered VPN ID and other system address information for the target device.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
displaying the duplicate network address and other system address information to the user.

3. (Canceled).

4. (Canceled).

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1~~3~~ further comprising:

permitting the user to assign the entered VPN ID to a network scope associated with the target device.

5

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1~~3~~ further comprising:

assigning the entered VPN ID to a network scope associated with the target device.

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7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1~~3~~ further comprising:

generating a modified system address for each device in a same scope as the target device based on the entered VPN ID and other system address information associated with each device in the same scope as the target device.

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8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1~~4~~ further comprising:

executing the requested action using the modified system address.

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9. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for managing devices within a distributed data processing system, the apparatus comprising:

receiving means for receiving a request for an action at a target device within the distributed data processing system, wherein the request for an action at the target device uniquely identifies the target device using a system address for the target device, wherein completion of the action depends upon a network address of the target device within the distributed data processing system; and

reporting means for reporting, in response to a determination that a second device within the distributed data processing system has a network address that duplicates the network address of the target device, the duplicate network address to a user along with other system address information for the target device and the second device;

requiring means for requiring the user to enter a virtual private network identifier (VPN ID) to be associated with the target device; and

generating means for generating, in response to a determination that a second device within the distributed data processing system has a network address that duplicates the network address of the target device, a modified system address for the target device based on the entered VPN ID and other system address information for the target device.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9 further comprising:
displaying means for displaying the duplicate network address and other system address information to the user.

11. (Canceled).

12. (Canceled).

13. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 9 ~~11~~ further comprising:

5 accepting means for accepting user input to assign the entered VPN ID to a network scope associated with the target device.

10 14. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 9 ~~11~~ further comprising:

assigning means for assigning the entered VPN ID to a network scope associated with the target device.

15 15. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 9 ~~11~~ further comprising:

generating means for generating a modified system address for each device in a same scope as the target device based on the entered VPN ID and other system address information associated with each device in the same scope as the target device..

20 16. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 9 ~~12~~ further comprising:

executing means for executing the requested action using the modified system address.

17. (Currently Amended) A computer program product in a computer readable medium for use in a data processing system for managing devices within a network, the computer program product comprising:

5 instructions for receiving a request for an action at a target device within the distributed data processing system, wherein the request for an action at the target device uniquely identifies the target device using a system address for the target device, wherein completion of the action depends upon a
10 network address of the target device within the distributed data processing system; and

instructions for presenting, in response to a determination that a second device within the distributed data processing system has a network address that duplicates the network address
15 of the target device, the duplicate network address to a user along with other system address information for the target device and the second device;

instructions for requiring the user to enter a virtual private network identifier (VPN ID) to be associated with the
20 target device; and

instructions for generating, in response to a determination that a second device within the distributed data processing system has a network address that duplicates the network address
of the target device, a modified system address for the target
25 device based on the entered VPN ID and other system address information for the target device.

18. (Original) The computer program product of claim 17 further comprising:

30 instructions for displaying the duplicate network address and other system address information to the user.

19. (Canceled).

20. (Canceled).

21. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of
5 | claim 17 ~~19~~ further comprising:

instructions for accepting user input to assign the entered
VPN ID to a network scope associated with the target device.

22. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of
10 | claim 17 ~~19~~ further comprising:

instructions for assigning the entered VPN ID to a network
scope associated with the target device.

23. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of
15 | claim 17 ~~19~~ further comprising:

instructions for generating a modified system address for
each device in a same scope as the target device based on the
entered VPN ID and other system address information associated
with each device in the same scope as the target device.

24. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of
20 | claim 17 ~~20~~ further comprising:

instructions for executing the requested action using the
modified system address.